

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5998

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As of February 18, 2015

**Title:** An act relating to the protection of groundwater.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the protection of groundwater.

**Sponsors:** Senator Roach.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development: 2/19/15.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, WATER & RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Staff:** Diane Smith (786-7410)

**Background:** The use and management of the state's waters must be guided by the eleven fundamentals stated in the Water Resources Act. Among the eleven are that adequate and safe supplies of water must be preserved and protected in potable condition to satisfy human domestic needs. Another embodies the overriding consideration of the public interest as the rationale for allowing withdrawals that would conflict with the fundamental of protection, and where possible enhancement, of the quality of the natural environment.

The eleven fundamentals inform the policy decisions of Washington water law and its implementation.

**Summary of Bill:** A fundamental of water resource policy is added. Groundwater providing drinking water to residents must be managed so as to maintain and protect both quantity and quality for present and future generations. Withdrawals that would deplete the quantity or damage the quality of a groundwater source so as to jeopardize that source must be discouraged.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.